

PUBLIC COMMENTS Q&A

Summary

The Town of Collingwood staff as well as members of Council have received almost 50 comments from 24 individuals mostly in the form of support for a particular budget item or a question/criticism of a particular item or current Town service. These comments or questions regarding the 2021 Budget were received primarily via email (budget@collingwood.ca) and through the Town's Engage Collingwood website.

The two most commented on items were the traffic calming and climate change budget initiatives at 11 and 10 comments of support for these initiatives, respectively. There were also two comments specifically not in support of these two initiatives. The next most commented upon item was the towns trails network (8 comments) with the majority advocating for better maintenance and for expansion of the network. There were also 3 comments calling for better maintenance of our Town Parks and 2 comments of concern regarding the condition of our linear engineered infrastructure network. There were also two comments critical of the Arts Center feasibility study. Lastly there were singular questions/criticisms regarding the Towns rolling stock/fleet, programs by the library, the Fisher Field club house project and additional town docks and the Yacht Clubs contribution to this project. There were also two singular comments supporting demolition of the grain terminals and advocating for greater public access to the waterfront.

Comment 1.

Public water access -Local businesses
- Jeff

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.

Comment 2.

After a crazy year and the amount of people that have utilized the trail network more money needs allocating to repair and improve the network. The section between Sobeyes and sunset point has been underwater. Centennial pool and outdoor ice rink
- Stuart F

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Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The 2021 as well as the 10 year capital budget contain initiatives as well as an annual funding towards expanding and improving the Town's trail network. A portion of development charges does go towards funding trails growth projects. There is a specific project in the budget to address the issue between Sunset point and Sobey's

Comment 3.

There is a section on the 6th Street bike path that doesn't connect forcing kids on bikes to go on the shoulder of a very busy road. Please make that path go all the way through. In general, bike paths that connect throughout the city as it grows.
- Shannon

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Wherever possible the Town will construct separated bike facilities. So many other factors determine where the trail ends up, mainly due to land ownership.

Comment 4.

Traffic in general but in particular speeding, unsafe U turns, trucks and cars with modified tailpipes, bikes on sidewalks trucks using air brakes. Police presence in town needed. Trails need attention as well.
- Cher

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The 2021 budget includes initiatives related to traffic calming for Council's consideration, and recent conversations with the Police Services Board (which sets community priorities for our local police force, the OPP) have occurred to highlight areas where there are concerns about speeding.

Comment 5.

Water, sanitation services, well kept roads and sidewalks and emergency services are all essential. Our waterfront, trails and environment need the attention they deserve. Planning and other municipal services to ensure Collingwood grows sustainably
- dohrling

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Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.

Comment 6.

The Town declared a climate emergency (October 2019). This necessitates the establishment of a climate specialist on town staff to ensure responsibility, accountability and meaningful action to reduce carbon emissions in our community.
- Nick Clayton

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.

Comment 7.

More attention to planning for bike lanes, trails, and sidewalks so that they link together. Repair, improve, and expand the heavily used bike and trail system.
- Heather

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. As roads get reconstructed and residential / commercial developments are being planned Town staff take every opportunity to incorporate active transportation into the design to construct the missing links in the network as per the Active Transportation Plan, Cycling Master Plan and Transportation Master Plan.

Comment 8.

The most important thing to me is that Collingwood make meaningful reductions to its use of fossil fuels. The Climate Specialist position must be funded.
- Lhood275

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Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.

Comment 9.

We need action now based on the climate emergency declared last year. A climate specialist position is essential to take on the much needed effort and commitment. We also need support to gain any federal climate funding for municipalities.

- CHDaw

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.

Comment 10.

Collingwood has too many white, unaccounted-for, over-powered, full-size pick up trucks for a small town the geographic size of Collingwood and for the population, now and in the future, of Collingwood

- jeffreybrydges

Response

Thank-you for your comment. In the Town's efforts to provide the best possible roads, services, facilities and programming for citizens and visitors alike, pick-up trucks prove to be quite versatile in the transport of personnel, equipment and materials from one location to another or to service a jobsite. They are also functional for a wide variety of inter-departmental needs and can readily be shared or re-purposed from one use to another which results in a net reduction of the fleet size. Nevertheless, we continue to look for opportunities to right-size any vehicle for the intended purpose and move to smaller, more economical and environmentally conscious options. We are continuing this effort through this budget process and going forward.

Comment 11.

The library should not be providing recreational programs that can be more effectively and efficiently provided by the parks and recreation department

- jeffreybrydges

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Response

I suspect Mr. Brydges is referring to the pole walking program. Perhaps a little background would help explain how the library got into the pole walking business. The program was originally started by the Georgian Bay Family Health Team to encourage seniors to pursue active living. When their funding ran out, they looked around for someone else to continue the program because it had been quite successful. They approached the library because we were already doing several different programs for seniors. We were interested, but recognized that this wasn't our area of expertise, so we approached Jennifer Parker in Town's PRC Department for help. The program is currently run jointly by the library and the PRC. The library does the promotion and registration, and leadership is shared. The GBFHT donated all the walking poles, so the only cost to the Town is staff time, which is shared between the two departments. (Ken Haigh)

Comment 12.

Council and managers should have a goal and objective of reducing the overall residential tax footprint of Collingwood, being a small town both geographically and based on its population now and in the future; property taxes are unaffordable

- jeffreybrydges

Response

Thank you for your comment and for actively being a part of the Towns 2021 Budget process. The Town of Collingwood endeavors to ensure property taxes are affordable, and while we can always do better, the Town has made great strides in recent years reducing debt and introducing a strategic financial plan with related policies with the overall objective of financial sustainability and affordability.

Comment 13.

The Town does not need another new separate position of "climate specialist"; all managers should be trained to address climate change and climate issues as part of their ongoing mandate

- jeffreybrydges

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The intention with this position is to introduce scientific and community engagement expertise that can support Greenhouse Gas benchmarking and develop a community-wide plan. Town staff continue to support internal green-related

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initiatives through the Green Team, electricity and fuel monitoring and reduction activities, recycling and more.

Comment 14.

The existing trails, including waterfront trails, should be high-water and flood proofed, whether that means relocating them away the shoreline itself, building more storm resistant boardwalks, installing proper drainage, or raising the trail beds
- jeffreybrydges

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The 2021 as well as the 10 year capital budget contain initiatives as well as an annual funding towards expanding and improving the Town's trail network. A portion of development charges does go towards funding trails growth projects.

Comment 15.

At a minimum, the contamination of the old concrete grain silos should be removed in 2021; then the Town can proceed to safely demolish them in an environmentally-responsible manner
- jeffreybrydges

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The Town initiated a process in 2019 intended to ultimately arrive at an optimal fair and open resolution regarding the issue of the grain terminals. The 2021 Budget includes a funding expertise to support developing a request for proposals (RFP) process for the Grain Terminals.

Comment 16.

There should be no parking allowed in or on designated bike lanes; what is the point of a bike lane if it is blocked by parked cars and trucks
- jeffreybrydges

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. As it relates to the 2021 budget we are looking at having increased enforcement and purchasing bicycles for our By-law Officers. We do need public's input to report situations such as this when they arise.

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Comment 16.

The soccer club should be paying for more of the costs of the building at fisher fields since they receive most of the benefits
- jeffreybrydges

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The Fisher Field clubhouse project is funded from multiple sources with the primary funding source being development charges as this is considered a growth project. The soccer club does pay a rental fee for their use of the property and facility and has also been collecting funding through registrations for several years that we understand will be donated to this project.

Comment 17.

Council and managers should not be giving away taxpayers' money to a community foundation and abdicating their responsibilities; a community foundation should be funded through private tax deductible donations only.
- jeffreybrydges

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The community foundation is one mechanism under consideration as a way to provide a long lasting return to the community. There has not been a final decision with respect to this initiative and we look forward to further input on the best approach for the town.

Comment 18.

The yacht club members should be paying for servicing the spit since they receive most of the benefits
- jeffreybrydges

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The activation of the Collingwood harbour is an element of the Waterfront Master plan endorsed by Council in 2018 and as such there are multiple initiatives tied to the spit servicing. Yacht club members are charged a fee for the service they receive which is based on the full lifecycle costs associated with the spit.

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Comment 19.

Council and managers should not be spending any money or time on an arts centre feasibility study; if anything, such money should be directed to fund a new hospital which should be a community priority; such time should be directed to basic services
- jeffreybrydges

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. It is appreciated and understood that the hospital is a priority, however hospital funding is a provincial accountability (and thus residents and businesses pay for health care and hospitals through their annual tax returns and not through their residential property taxes). Thus, we await notice on any funding call from the province or the Hospital.

Council is following through on public support for an arts and culture facility in Collingwood. There is believed to be the potential for a greater strategy whereby Collingwood could be a center for arts and culture for the Southern Georgian Bay region. However, the commitment currently is only towards investigating the feasibility of the concept.

Comment 20.

Less parks and rec staff time should be spent on culture and events; more parks and rec staff time should be spent on repairs and maintenance
- jeffreybrydges

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The Parks staff endeavor to maintain the parks facilities at the established and committed to service levels. The Parks team welcomes public feedback and input with respect to the maintenance standards of town properties. Community activities related to culture and events are in line with the recently-updated Community-based Strategic Plan.

Comment 21.

As a small town, Council and managers should not hire an urban forestry expert; expertise should be requested from the County Forestry Department on an ongoing basis supplemented by the NVCA, unless the Provincial government curtails conservation
- jeffreybrydges

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Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively taking part in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The Town of Collingwood has adopted the Urban Forest Management plan (Feb 2020) which highlights the critical importance of the Town's urban forest not only for aesthetic and resident well being but also for the important role it plays in pollution mitigation and storm water management. The Town always endeavors to deliver program in the most cost effective and efficient manner and we appreciate your suggestion to review collaboration options.

Comment 22.

Council and managers should set aside their pet projects and focus on the delivery of basic municipal services.
- jeffreybrydges

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.

Comment 23.

Demonstration of proactive approaches to environmental challenges and climate mitigation and adaptation. I appreciate the ideas that fall under this option but due to the fact we have declared a climate emergency - more should be allotted!
- Tori

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.

Comment 24.

Infrastructure! Roads! Water! Sewers! Almost every road in Collingwood is a disgrace and hazard.
- yodelady

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Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The 2021 budget and 10 year capital plan include the replacement of road, water, sanitary and storm infrastructure following our Asset Management plan, as well as regular inspections and evaluations. In our most recent road condition assessment our average condition was 82.4 (PCI) which is considered a good rating compared to municipal averages.

Comment 25.

The Climate Change Specialist is a 100% necessary role that should be a no brainer for the town. Please ensure this position is created.

- jeff44young

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.

Comment 26.

Implementation of Urban Forest Management Plan, including a Tree Protection Bylaw with the hiring of an Urban Forestry Expert. Please ensure this plan goes forward as it is crucial to health of residents and our local ecosystems

- jeff44young

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.

Comment 27.

Stop studying traffic and start building bike lanes. Figure out how ToC can reduce its carbon footprint, then do it. Perhaps the Town employees in trucks can stop idling them all day long, even in fine weather? Climate/liveability action is needed.

- Carl Michener

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Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. With every new road design and road reconstruction, Town Engineering refers to already completed studies including our Transportation Master Plan, Master Cycling plan and Active Transportation plan so that we can incorporate different transportation options. The Town is also completing a Transit services Review and Route Optimization Study to improve our transit services and increase ridership.

Comment 28.

Our trails are receiving heavy traffic and require maintenance. Re-stone dusting many of the trails is required to keep the trails in good working condition. Please allow enough money to retain in good repair what we already have.

- George

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The 2021 as well as the 10 year capital budget contain initiatives as well as an annual funding towards maintaining, expanding and improving the Town's trail network. A portion of development charges does go towards funding trails growth projects.

Comment 29.

More bus shelters. Small park benches along Hurontario S. Paving of the shoreline gravel paths at Sunset Point to protect sandaled feet and pet's feet from grit and larger stones. No Littering or Keep Our Parks Clean signage. Small things count!

- Cari

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.

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Comment 30.

Hello everyone, I hope you have been keeping well during this challenging year. I appreciate all the time and effort you and all of your colleagues put forth to help make Collingwood a beautiful, thriving community. Upon reviewing the 2021 Proposed Budget I wanted to share my thoughts on what I think is most important for Collingwood to ensure it stays beautiful and thriving for future generations.

To me, the most important aspects of the budget that should be enhanced:

1. Better connected bike lanes on town roads
2. Electric town busses
3. Car free areas downtown and slow zones
4. Support for local small businesses
5. Additional funding to the urban forest
6. A climate change specialist role (or more!)

I appreciate your time and once again, thank you for all that you do.

Tori Daly

Response

Thanks for your continuing support. And then thanks you for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.

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Comment 31.

Hi Everyone, I have reviewed the 2021 Proposed Budget. First overall, great job. I agree with the majority of items on the budget but I want to stress the importance of the below

1) Additional Enhancement Options

Climate Change Specialist:

-The town has declared a Climate Emergency and a role that can specifically focus on how the town can reduce greenhouse gases is crucial.

-Climate change is happening now and it truly is an emergency. This role needs to happen to have continued focus on climate change initiatives.

-There are already a few comments on the budget website stating this should be built into everyone's job and do agree but to have a 3 year contract to help establish the culture on how this can be done is important.

-I'm hoping this position would focus on active transportation (bike lanes, slow streets), the purchase of electric transportation for the town and carbon sequestration through promoting urban forestry.

Implementation of Urban Forest Management Plan, including a Tree Protection Bylaw with the hiring of an Urban Forestry Expert

-As all of you know, trees provide many benefits to our residents (health, property value, beautification) while also supporting our local ecosystems and environment.

-It is important our canopy is managed in a way to promote biodiversity with the goal of bringing nature into our city not leaving it on the outskirts.

-Part of this plan should address the importance of planting native plants including flowers and shrubs along with ensuring new developments have strict rules on what trees can be cut down (Summit View cutting down 100 foot poplars along High St) and ensuring at least 5x the trees taken down are replanted

Thanks for your time. I have left other comments on the budget website. I look forward to hearing your feedback .

- Jeff Young

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Response

Thank you for your comments, they have been taken under advisement. A part-time position has been recommended as a discretionary expense for Council's consideration. Should Council approve the expense, a work plan and objectives will be determined and then matched against the skills, abilities, and experience of prospective candidates. Understanding the magnitude of the undertaking it will be important to ensure a rational approach for the new contract staff member, if approved.

Comment 32.

As a UN SDG 11 town we need to build a sustainable town - this includes taking the much-needed steps towards climate change initiatives which will increase our sustainability. I support inclusion of the Climate Change Specialist in the budget.

- Bianca Creek

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.

Comment 33.

This Canadian report just released underscores the need for urgent climate action. https://climatechoices.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Tip-of-the-Iceberg_-_CoCC_-Institute_-Full.pdf(External link)

- Lhood275

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.

Comment 34.

I 100% support the funding for "traffic calming implementation" . I live in the tree streets and speeding is completely ridiculous. Thank you.

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Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The 2021 and 10 year Capital Budget has initiatives specifically aimed at addressing traffic calming and street safety.

Comment 35.

In the upcoming budget voting I feel it's very important that once we've spent money on a Traffic Calming Study, we also support the budget allowance to enact the changes. I am in full support of the \$145K budget request for traffic calming implementation.

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your comment is valid in that by considering a traffic calming policy, we also need to consider the resources required to implement the policy in an efficient manner. The 2021 and 10 year Capital Budget has initiatives specifically aimed at addressing traffic calming and street safety and resources required for its implementation.

Comment 36.

Our family lives on Findlay Drive, a 'Community Safety Zone.' Findlay Drive has a problem with drivers going too fast, at the peril of pedestrians. ***Consequently we wholeheartedly support any Traffic Calming Measures and the funding required to implement them via the Town's 2021 budget.***

Thank you for your efforts to make it safer for residents to walk and ride around town.

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The 2021 and 10 year Capital Budget has initiatives specifically aimed at addressing traffic calming and street safety.

Comment 37.

To whom it may concern I would like to state that i support the funding request for Traffic Calming Implementation. The thorough streets are dangerous, especially in school zones. I had my car written off in August from an impaired driver taking a short cut through town. The streets need to be safe and monitored.

-April

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Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The 2021 and 10 year Capital Budget has initiatives specifically aimed at addressing traffic calming and street safety.

Comment 38.

I am in support for the funding for "traffic calming implementation"

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The 2021 and 10 year Capital Budget has initiatives specifically aimed at addressing traffic calming and street safety.

Comment 39.

I, Jessica Lehr, support the ask related to speed calming measures in the Town of Collingwood. My concerns relate to along Lockhart Road and Dey Drive. While there has always been speed concerns along Lockhart (I lived at 69 Kockhart from 2005-2011), they are getting worse with the opening of Dey Drive into the new subdivision. There is no buffer between the road and the sidewalks in that area and with the increase in young families in the area, not forgetting all the students walking to Admiral), I have great concerns regarding traffic and pedestrian safety. Also, many cars run the Lockhart/Dey stop sign.

I am aware of other issues around town that need to be addressed, but this one is closest to me still today.

- Jessica Lehr

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The 2021 and 10 year Capital Budget has initiatives specifically aimed at addressing traffic calming and street safety.

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Comment 40.

We need traffic calming measures (lockhart/Dey). I support more lanes! We need more bike lanes! We need a climate specialist position in the town. We need to support naturalization projects (Pollinate Collingwood)! Harbour enviro and safety plan!

- Jessica Lehr

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play. The 2021 and 10 year Capital Budget has initiatives specifically aimed at addressing traffic calming and street safety. Also, when considering road design for new roads or road reconstruction, the inclusion of bike facilities is reviewed.

Comment 41.

I support the hiring of a Climate Change Specialist to ensure Collingwood is making sustainable decisions and accessing opportunities for federal infrastructure funding for green projects - a logical next step after declaring a climate emergency.

- Tim Shuff

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.

Comment 42.

Sidewalk and bike lanes along High Street from Creekside all the way to Poplar Sideroad. A crosswalk is required at High and Findlay. Connect Summitview to Black Ash Trail. Bike and pedestrian infrastructure should precede residential development!

- Tim Shuff

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Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. The 2021 as well as the 10 year capital budget contain crosswalk initiatives as well as an annual funding towards expanding and improving the Town's trail network. A portion of development charges does go towards funding trails growth projects.

Comment 43.

Further development of the parking lot at the foot of Birch Street for recreational use by human-powered watercraft: a secure storage facility (containers) for SUPs and kayaks so local paddlers can bike to the water.

- Tim Shuff

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.

Comment 44.

I totally support the hiring of a climate change specialist. The climate crisis is already here and we need a dedicated staff member to be working on this! With no staffer we cannot get federal funding to help with this enormous pressing issue.

– Owen Gray

Response

Thanks for your comment and for actively participating in the Town of Collingwood's 2021 Budget process. Your participation and input are vital in making our community a better place to work and play.